

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A system vessel for treating medical implants comprising:
 - a treatment chamber having
 - an inside surface defining the inside of the treatment chamber,
 - an outside surface,
 - an entrance sized to allow a medical implant to pass through it,
 - a plurality of fluid passages, ~~the passages positioned and sized to create a buffer zone of compressible fluid between the inside surface of the treatment chamber and a medical implant placed therein with compressible fluid that has exited the plurality of fluid passages; and;~~
 - a compressible fluid supply in fluid communication with at least one of the fluid passages, and
 - an elongated medical implant having a longitudinal axis,
 - wherein the plurality of fluid passages are positioned and sized to create a buffer zone of compressible fluid between the inside surface of the treatment chamber and the medical implant positioned at least partially within the chamber when compressible fluid has exited the passages and
 - wherein the plurality of fluid passages are positioned and sized such that when compressible fluid has exited the passages, the elongated medical implant positioned at least partially in the treatment chamber will spin about the longitudinal axis.

2. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a therapeutic injection nozzle positioned within the treatment chamber along a longitudinal axis of the treatment chamber.

3. (Currently Amended) The system vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the treatment chamber is cylindrical and the plurality of fluid passages are uniformly spaced and positioned along the inside surface of the treatment chamber.

4. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1 further comprising:
 - an outer case surrounding the treatment chamber;
 - a coating supply coupled to the treatment chamber; and

a heating element in thermal communication with the inside surface of the treatment chamber.

5. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the fluid passages are coupled to a supply of coating and therapeutic.

6. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the treatment chamber is cylindrically shaped and further comprises:

an end cap; and

an exhaust,

wherein the plurality of fluid passages positioned and sized to circulate compressible fluid within the treatment chamber, and the treatment chamber is sized to treat a single medical implant at a time.

7. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein a coating source, a therapeutic source, and a compressible fluid source are each coupled to the fluid passages.

8. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1 further comprising:

a first nozzle positioned within the treatment chamber, the first nozzle slidable along a longitudinal axis of the treatment chamber, the first nozzle coupled to a supply of therapeutic or coating; and

a second nozzle positioned within the treatment chamber, the second nozzle slidable along a longitudinal axis of the treatment chamber, the second nozzle coupled to a supply of therapeutic or coating.

9. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein a first set of fluid passages direct circulation of compressible fluids within the treatment chamber in a first direction and wherein a second set of fluid passages direct circulation of compressible fluids within the treatment chamber in a second direction, the first direction different from the second direction.

10. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 9 wherein the first direction is opposed to the second direction.

11. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the treatment chamber is not opaque.

12. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein the fluid passages comprise at least a first set of passages and a second set of passages, and wherein compressible fluid may be ejected from the first set of passages regardless of whether compressible fluid is being ejected from the second set of passages.
13. (Currently Amended) The vessel system vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a supply of a first coating coupled to the treatment chamber; and
 - a supply of a second coating coupled to the treatment chamber.
14. (Withdrawn) A method of treating a medical implant comprising:
 - placing a first medical implant into a treatment chamber having inside surfaces;
 - retarding the first medical implant from contacting the inside surfaces of the treatment chamber by injecting compressible fluid into the treatment chamber the compressible fluid forcing the implant away from the inside surfaces of the treatment chamber;
 - injecting a therapeutic into the treatment chamber; and
 - removing the first medical implant.
15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
 - drying the therapeutic onto the first medical implant.
16. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
 - rotating the medical implant in one direction along a longitudinal axis of the first medical implant and then rotating the medical implant in the opposite direction along the same longitudinal axis.
17. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 wherein the medical implant is cylindrical and the method further comprises:
 - injecting therapeutic within the cylindrical implant while the implant is spinning within the treatment chamber.
18. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
 - placing a second nozzle within the treatment chamber.
19. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
 - disposing of the treatment chamber after the first medical implant is removed.
20. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:

rotating the first medical implant until therapeutic becomes embedded in the first medical implant.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
activating a heating element to dry the therapeutic.
22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 14 further comprising:
placing a second medical implant into the treatment chamber prior to removing the first medical implant.
23. (Previously Presented) The vessel for treating medical implants of claim 1 wherein
the passages are further positioned and sized such that when compressible fluid is
exiting the plurality of fluid passages a medical implant positioned in the
treatment chamber rotates about one of its axes.
24. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1
wherein ~~the axis about which the medical implant rotates is a longitudinal axis of
the medical implant. the medical implant is a stent.~~
25. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1
wherein the buffer zone of compressible fluid encircles the medical implant.
26. (Currently Amended) The vessel system for treating medical implants of claim 1
wherein the buffer zone of compressible fluid prevents contact between the
medical implant and the inside surface of the treatment chamber.